

RE: **H.B. 6550** AN ACT CONCERNING THE OFFICE OF HEALTH STRATEGY'S RECOMMENDATIONS  
REGARDING VARIOUS REVISIONS TO COMMUNITY BENEFITS PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY HOSPITALS  
3/07/21

Dear Senator Mary Daugherty Abrams, Representative Jonathan Steinberg, and Members of the Public Health Committee,

My name is Jean de Smet and I live in Willimantic Connecticut. I stand in support of HB 6550 An Act Concerning the Office of Health Strategy's Recommendations Regarding Various Revisions to Community Benefits Programs Administered by Hospitals.

Residents of Windham County and surrounding towns need maternity and birthing services right here in our community. Hartford Health Care finds it is not profitable to serve our area. But HHC is making a lot of money with their current business model, and it is incumbent on them to provide services to rural, impoverished communities, regardless of the cost.

Windham Hospital lost it's nearest ob/gyn provider to another hospital. But HHC well knows how to establish practices right here in their medical center, where they have GP, Cardiovascular, orthopedic and other specialties. HHC could start an ob/gyn practice here, and not use the excuse that the sole ob/gyn practice in the area will not partner with them. (One wonders why they won't?).

Please do not let HHC close the maternity ward at Windham Hospital.

Thank you for your consideration,

*Jean de Smet*